

**Amendment to the Specification**

Please amend the following paragraphs:

Page 1, lines 1-11

This application is a ~~Continuation~~ continuation of copending application no 09/551,766, filed on April 18, 2000, which is a continuation of application no.. 09/162,874, filed September 29, 1998, now US patent no. 6,105,014, which is a continuation of application no. 08/845,012, 08/845,012, filed 4/22/97-April 22, 1997, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,831,220, which was a division of Serial. No. 08/235,290, filed 4/29/94 April 29, 1994, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,656,799, which was a Continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial. No. 07/903,342, filed June 24, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,340,948, which is a Continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial. No. 07/683,243, filed April 10, 1991, now U.S. Patent. No. 5,233,532. The disclosures of the above-identified documents are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.

Page 51, line 31 to page 52, line 14

Once all of the shipping information has been properly entered, microprocessor 718 then polls scale 706 at step 826 to determine the weight of the parcel or envelope 708. If no weight or an invalid weight is detected at step 828, system 700 prompts the customer at step 830 to place the parcel or envelope 708 on the scale 706. If no weight is detected for a period of time (usually around 30 seconds), system 700 will assume the customer has left and will abort this shipping transaction. The system then loops back to step 826 and waits.

Next, at step 832, system 700 prompts the customer to input the dimensions of the parcel or envelope 708 to be shipped. The customer determines the measurements using measuring

grid 710 adjacent scale 706. Screen graphics on CRT 702 help the customer in this process by illustrating how the dimensions of the package are to be measured using the measuring grid 710. System 700 then determines at step 834 whether the input dimension data is valid and issues an appropriate message at step 836 if the dimensions are, for example, too large to be handled at that location. The customer is then given another opportunity to enter the dimensions at step 832 to correct any errors.